

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9691
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
HQ USAF WASHDC
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
CINCUSNAVEUR
USDOCOSOUTH
USNMR SHAPE
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2721

NOFORN

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, GR, TU
SUB: GREEK-TURKISH AEGEAN AIRSPACE ISSUE

1. ON MARCH 17 THE GOT DELIVERED TO THE GOG ITS COUNTER-
PROPOSAL ON THE AEGEAN AIRSPACE ISSUE. THE MFA ACTING
DIRECTOR FOR TURKISH AND CYPRIOT AFFAIRS, MACRIS, DISCUSSED
THE SUBJECT WITH THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR MARCH 24 BUT
REQUESTED THAT THE INFORMATION BE KEPT STRICTLY WITHIN
U.S. CHANNELS. THIS MESSAGE SHOULD, THEREFORE BE HANDLED AS
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NOFORN.

2. MACRIS SAID THAT, AS WE KNEW, THE GOG HAD PRESENTED
A COMPROMISE PROPOSAL TO THE TURKS ON JANUARY 7 TO
DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM THE TURKS HAD OVER ANY MENTION OF
THE TERM "FIR" (FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION) OR THE FIR LINE
IN ANY GREEK-TURKISH AGREEMENT ON THE AEGEAN AIRSPACE

PROBLEM. CAGLAYANGIL HAD EXPLAINED TO BITSIOS WHEN THEY MET IN BRUSSELS, FOLLOWING THE NATO MINISTERIAL LAST DECEMBER, THAT ANY MENTION OF THE TERM FIR WOULD CREATE DOMESTIC PROBLEMS FOR THE GOT SINCE THE FIR LINE WAS SO CLOSE TO THE TURKISH COAST. HE ADDED THAT HE HOPED A FORMULA COULD BE FOUND WHICH DID NOT CHANGE THE EXISTING SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO THE ICAO REGIME BUT AT THE SAME TIME AVOIDED REFERENCE TO THE FIR LINE.

3. AT THE TIME BITSIOS HAD AGREED TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE TO COME UP WITH SUCH A FORMULA, MACRIS CONTINUED, BUT HE STRESSED THE OBJECTIVE WOULD BE NOT TO CHANGE ICAO PRACTICES OR PROCEDURES, OR THE FACT ICAO AGREEMENTS AND REGULATIONS GOVERNED THE INTERNATIONAL AVIATION REGIME OVER THE AEGEAN. THE GREEK PROPOSAL HANDED TO THE TURKS IN EARLY JANUARY DID NOT MENTION THE TERM FIR, MACRIS SAID, BUT DID REFER TO THE ICAO. (MACRIS COMMENTED THAT IN THE DRAFTS ON OTHER ASPECTS OF THE AIRSPACE ISSUE ON WHICH AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED DURING THE BILATERAL TALKS EARLIER THE TERM FIR WAS MENTIONED 22 TIMES.)

4. AT THEIR MEETING IN STRASBOURG ON JANUARY 29, CAGLAYANGIL HAD SAID THE GREEK FORMULATION WAS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE AND ASKED WHY THE GOG CONTINUED TO INSIST ON USING THE TERM FIR. HE PROMISED TO GIVE THE GREEK SIDE A COUNTERPROPOSAL ON THIS POINT. AMBASSADOR TEZEL DELIVERED THE TURKISH DOCUMENT TO THE MFA ON MARCH 17 (ALMOST TWO MONTHS AFTER IT WAS PROMISED, MACRIS SAID) SAYING IT WAS NOT A REPLY TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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GREEK DRAFT BUT A COMPLETELY "NEW APPROACH."

5. MACRIS STATED THAT ACCORDING TO THE INITIAL GREEK ANALYSIS, THE TURKISH DRAFT IS NEITHER TECHNICAL NOR DOES IT REFLECT SECURITY CONCERNS. RATHER, HE SAID, IT IS POLITICAL IN NATURE. HE WAS UNWILLING TO GO INTO ANY GREAT DETAILS SINCE, HE SAID, THE DRAFT WAS STILL UNDER STUDY. THE GOG WOULD NOT REJECT THE TURKISH DRAFT, ACCORDING TO MACRIS, BUT WOULD PROBABLY PUT FORWARD ANOTHER COUNTERPROPOSAL OF ITS OWN WHICH WILL BE BASED ON THE ISSUES THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED AND AGREED TO DURING THE BILATERAL TALKS TO DATE AS WELL AS ON ESTABLISHED ICAO PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES.

6. THE TURKISH APPROACH REFLECTED IN ITS DRAFT, MACRIS CONCLUDED, PROVIDES NO BASIS FOR THE EXPERTS TO MEET AGAIN AND RESUME THEIR WORK. EVERYTHING THE EXPERTS HAVE DISCUSSED AND AGREED TO PREVIOUSLY HAS BEEN TOTALLY IGNORED. THUS MACRIS EXPECTS THAT FURTHER CONTACTS ON THIS SUBJECT

WILL BE CARRIED OUT THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.
KUBISCH

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